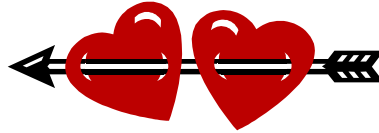


February 2001

Number 13

RCFTS NEWS



This is the thirteenth issue of the RCFTS News. We hope it is helpful, informative and of interest to you.

The RCFTS newsletter, Coordinators List, and Users Guide can be obtained at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/rcfts.htm>. Contact anyone on the SRB if you experience difficulties in pulling down the newsletter from the internet site and we will be glad to either mail or fax a copy to your state.

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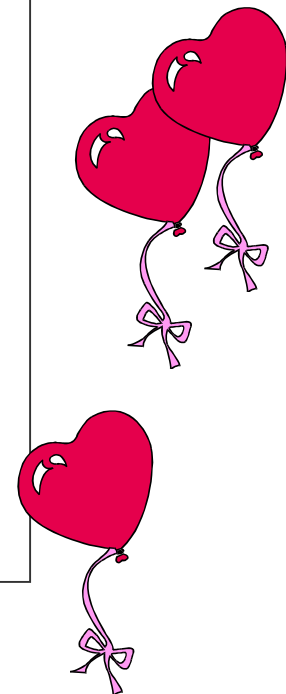
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Multi-Program Related Issues



♦ WEB FOCUS – New Fields for Year 2000 Fix (continued from last newsletter)

The new fields mentioned in the last newsletter to help you with the Year 2000 (showing Year 2000 information after 1999) have hopefully helped write your own reports. A question was raised regarding how to use the compute option on these new fields. The proper field date formats from which to select are "MDYY" and "YYMD." We have been informed they will print out in a 4-digit year format even though they appear as a 2-digit year format. Please let us know if this works for your reports. Refer to Newsletter #12 from December 2000 for the new fields and how they work.

♦ Additional Funding Under New Appropriations for FY 2001



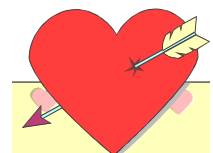
Under FY 2001 appropriations we received a few new programs. New programs under B&I direct and guaranteed loans cannot be tracked by type of assistance code BUT still need to be tracked in RCFTS. All of the new programs will be using the manual obligation process for now. There will be more direction on how to proceed with these new programs in future unnumbered letters. See the RCFTS User's Guide (Appendix A) in the near future for a list of new Type of Assistance Codes.

♦ RCFTS Replacement

SAY GOODBYE....

As you can see, this newsletter is very small. There is a reason for this!

The RCFTS you have come to know and love will be going away. The system is very antiquated and is finally being replaced. We cannot give you very many details at this point and time.



However, we can tell you that things are moving along quickly and we hope to see a new system within the next year or so (as far as things look right now). Most of the current requests for automation (changes/additions to the present

system) are being placed in a moratorium and will be taken into consideration as we develop the new system. In the meantime, any further changes/additions made to the current RCFTS system will be brought to your attention.

Due to the fact the current RCFTS won't be with us much longer, we are not going to do RCFTS Basic Training this fiscal year. We do not want to waste your state's money or time to train new people on a system which will be going away. However, there is a small possibility that we may be doing WEB FOCUS training in St. Louis, MO at the end of the fiscal year. This is not set in stone. We will inform you when definite plans are made regarding training (if any) this fiscal year. With the new system, there will be many changes in how we enter data, track information, and do our reporting. A whole new training regimen will have to be developed across the board once this system is ready for use.



We are working toward developing a system that will be user friendly, have a single point of entry, and will make all of our jobs easier. There will be a learning curve, but we feel this will be well worth the effort!!

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE



Refer to multi-program issues.

If you have any questions, contact Robin Pulkkinen in the National Office.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE



Refer to multi-program issues.

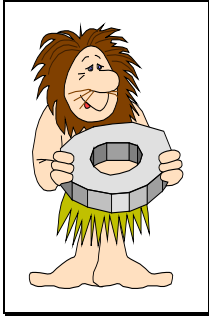
If you have any questions, contact Andrea Barnett in the National Office.

RURAL BUSINESS SERVICE

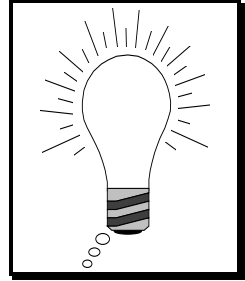


Refer to multi-program issues.

If you have any questions, contact Sylvia Neal in the National Office.



If you have any questions, problems or suggestions, please notify a RCFTS System Review Board (SRB) member listed below. Your input could be invaluable.



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